

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A system ~~integrated into a file browser~~ for managing and manipulating computer archive files that are in a .ZIP format, the system comprising:

a software utility program library that integrates as a callable program module into existing file management software programs installed on a computer, the software utility program library including:

a user interface integrated into the file ~~browser's~~ manager software programs' user interface interfacing with a central directory;

a file manager ~~including the central directory~~ interfacing with archive files and data object files for opening, viewing and modifying archive files and data object files, extracting and adding data to archive files and data object files, and creating new archive files and data object files; and

a compression/extraction engine interfacing with the file manager for compressing, extracting, authenticating, encrypting and decrypting archive files and data object files.

Claim 2 (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the user interface includes a shell, a graphical user interface and a call level interface.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein the file manager includes the central directory which stores the ~~archived~~ archive files.

Claim 4 (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the compression/extraction engine includes compression and extraction algorithms.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein the user interface, file manager and compression/extraction engine are integrated into the file ~~browser~~ management software programs.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 further comprising ~~a mail~~ an email attachment compressor module for automatically compressing email attachments.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The system of claim 6 wherein the ~~mail~~ email attachment compressor module is implemented within ~~a mail~~ an existing email application program previously installed on the user's computer and integrated with the compression/extraction engine.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The system of claim 7 wherein the ~~mail~~ email attachment compressor module integrates compression into the ~~mail~~ email application program's ~~mail~~ email message edit form.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The system of claim 7 wherein the ~~mail~~ email attachment compressor module provides digital certificate based file authentication of attachments as ~~they~~ the emails are sent.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): The system of claim 7 wherein the ~~mail~~ email attachment compressor module includes parameters for configuration of digital certificate based file authentication, encryption, and compression method options.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method of managing and manipulating computer archive files, the method comprising the steps of:

integrating a software utility program library into a an existing file browser management application program installed on a computer; and

accessing the software utility program library to manage and manipulate archive files stored in computer memory without leaving the ~~browser~~ file management application program environment by using the ~~browser's~~ file management application program's ~~modified~~ menus, toolbars, and/or drag and drop operators.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of claim 12 wherein managing archive files includes opening and viewing the contents of archive files.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method of claim 12 wherein manipulating archive files includes creating new archive files.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 12 wherein manipulating archive files includes modifying existing archive files.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of claim 12 wherein manipulating archive files includes extracting data from archive files.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method of claim 12 wherein manipulating archive files includes authenticating and encrypting archive files.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of integrating ~~a mail~~ an email attachment compression module into ~~a mail~~ an existing email application program installed on a computer for automatically authenticating, encrypting and compressing email attachments without leaving the ~~mail~~ email application program environment.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein the archive files are ~~zip~~ files in a .ZIP format.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 further comprising ~~a mail~~ an email attachment compressor module for automatically archiving and compressing email attachments.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein the system is integrated into the file ~~browser~~ management software programs using a shell name space extension application program interface and accessed by the browser's menus, toolbars, and/or drag and drop operators.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 further comprising an Internet plug-in module integrated into an existing Internet browser installed on a computer for managing and ~~manipulate~~ manipulating archive files downloaded from the Internet.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The system of claim 7 wherein the ~~mail~~ email attachment compressor module provides encryption of attachments as ~~they~~ the emails are sent.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A system for compressing email attachments comprising:

a software utility program library that integrates as a callable program module into existing email application software programs installed on a computer, the software utility program library including:

~~a mail~~ an email attachment compressor module interfacing with the email application program, the ~~mail~~ email attachment compressor module having a compression/extraction engine for automatically compressing email attachments into ~~zip~~ .ZIP files as the emails are sent.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The system of claim 24 wherein the compression/extraction engine provides parameters for configuration of digital certificate based file authentication, encryption and compression method options of the email attachments.

Claim 26 (new): A system for managing and manipulating archive files in a .ZIP format downloaded from the Internet comprising:

a software utility program library that integrates as a callable program module into existing web browser software programs installed on a computer, the software utility program library including:

an Internet module having a file manager and interfacing with the web browser for managing and manipulating archive files downloaded from the Internet; and
a compression/extraction engine interfacing with the web browser for compressing, extracting, authenticating, encrypting and decrypting the archive files.

Claim 27 (new): The system of claim 1 wherein the callable program module facilitates the use of files, archives and email attachments between and among diverse application programs.

Claim 28 (new): The method of claim 12 wherein the software utility program facilitates the use of files, archives and email attachments between and among diverse application programs.

Claim 29 (new): The system of claim 24 wherein the callable program module facilitates the use of files, archives and email attachments between and among diverse application programs.

Claim 30 (new): The system of claim 26 wherein the callable program module facilitates the use of files, archives and email attachments between and among diverse application programs.